

Activity 2: Choosing a course (CEFR B1)

Level:
CEFR B1

Time:
45 minutes

Resources:

- ✓ Handout
- ✓ Course leaflets
- ✓ Brochures/links to relevant local information on study opportunities for adults

Aims:

- ✓ To develop skills and knowledge in speaking and listening at Entry 3
- ✓ To explore vocabulary and language functions connected to Entry 3 topics
- ✓ To listen for detail in face to face situations
- ✓ To practise asking for clarification and checking you have understood
- ✓ To develop active listening skills

Exam task focus: Component 1 Task 2

Procedure

1. Vocabulary focus

- Introduce the topic of Lifelong Learning, that is learning for Adults. Ask if anyone has done a course in the UK or is thinking of doing a course. Tell them to complete task 1 on worksheet and take feedback.
- The “improve my English” option gives you the opportunity to explain that studying anything in English will improve their English.
- They can then move on to task 2 which gives them some idea of the range of classes there are. It is not essential that they learn all this vocabulary. Research local opportunities so you can give them the classification terminology used locally (Personal and creative... etc) if it not the same.

2. Researching a course

- Elicit from the class the information they would want to know about a course.
- Board the questions on platform whiteboard and encourage them to make a proforma with simple questions to use (similar to the course leaflets used later for the roleplay) as a guide to their research.
- Using local sources, give students time in breakout room (BOR) pairs to research a course they might like to do and note the details. This could be extended for homework.
- On their return to main room you could get SS to share their proformas via chatbox as a display of what they have found out.

Materials

Handout to be shared via chatbox

3. Language focus - Asking for clarification and checking you have understood

Either using one of the courses they have researched or one of the course leaflets supplied, you can now set up the role play. Demonstrate with you as the prospective student and a student giving you the information and demonstrate the language we use for checking that we have understood.

Target
language on
handout

4. Roleplay

- Students in pairs in BORs choose a course leaflet each. They take the role of a guidance worker or careers adviser and prospective student. The prospective student **MUST** use the language of clarification. Then they swap leaflets and practice again.
- At feedback in the main room, review the questions and the feedback.

Course
leaflets to
be shared
via chatbox

Cultural awareness and appropriacy

Preparation for this lesson should include getting yourself familiar with the kinds of courses and workshops available locally.

Studying something, even if it does not lead directly to a qualification, will help students to improve their English, build their confidence, and provide an opportunity to meet the host community in a natural way. Employers look kindly on someone who has demonstrated willingness to try something new.

It is challenging for students to find out about study opportunities so arranging for them to have contact with someone from the local adult guidance service, either through a visit or someone coming to speak to the class, would be useful.

This lesson could very productively be expanded beyond speaking practice to reading practice and carrying out research on-line.

Handout

What can I study?

Task 1: Tick two sentences which apply to you.

I want to improve my IT skills.

I want to do some exercise with other people.

I want to learn something creative.

I want know how to find work.

I want to get a vocational qualification.

I want to improve my English.

I want to go to University.

Task 2: Match the title to the box:

A. Adult skills

B. Preparing for University

C. Keeping fit and healthy

D. Personal and creative skills development

E. Job seeking skills

F. Vocational Skills

1

.....

Sewing, Driving Theory, Cookery,
Cake decoration,
Home improvements, Gardening, Art,
Photography

2

.....

Maths,
IT and Computing skills,
ESOL

3

.....

Motor vehicle maintenance, Hairdressing,
Health and Social Care, Catering

4

.....

A levels
Access Course
BTech

5

.....

Learn to swim, Dance and get fit, Bangra and
Bollywood, Badminton.

6

.....

CV workshop
Job interview preparation
Confidence Building Workshop

Task 3: Which box do these classes belong to?

Beauty Therapy Flower arranging.....

Martial Arts for all..... Sports massage

Job opportunities in the local area.....

Language we use to get clarification or check we have understood

Did you say Wednesday?
Sorry, I didn't quite catch that.
Are there any fee concessions for the course?
You get a certificate? Is that the same as a
qualification?

It's a workshop. Is that the same as online studying? How
is it different from a class?

Never be afraid to ask questions or ask for something to be repeated. It is normal!

Course leaflets

Preparation for the European Computer Driving Licence

What will I learn?

- Computer essentials
- Online essentials
- Word processing
- Spreadsheets
- Theory

How often are the classes?

Once a week.

Different places, choice of day or evening attendance.

How long is the course?

One year

Do I need any previous knowledge or qualifications to join the course?

No, but if you have never used a computer you will need to attend a drop-in workshop to learn how to use a keyboard and mouse.

Will I get a qualification?

You will be ready to take the ECDL at a local centre and will receive a record of achievement.

Dancing from around the world

What will I learn?

The opportunity to learn and enjoy dancing in different styles, including Latin American, Bangra and Swing.

How often are the classes?

Once a week on Thursday evenings.

How long is the course?

One year but you can join the course if there are spaces at different times to learn a particular dance style.

Do I need any previous knowledge or qualifications to join the course?

No, just enthusiasm. You also do not need to come with a partner.

Will I get a qualification?

No but you will be very popular with your friends when you have finished the course.

Motor vehicle maintenance

What will I learn?

Content is flexible according to the needs of the class but can include:

- How to check oil levels and change oil if needed
- How to check and change brake lines
- How to change light bulbs
- How to fit child car seats
- How to identify the cause of rattles and squeaks

How often are the classes?

Once a week. Wednesday morning OR evening.

Do I need any previous knowledge or qualifications to join the course?

No, but if you have some knowledge already you can support others in the friendly group

Will I get a qualification?

No, but you will save a lot of money and you could go on to study a vocational course.

Knitting and Crochet

What will I learn?

You will learn the basics of choosing appropriate yarns and using different stitches to apply the basic skills to exciting creative projects.

How often are the classes?

One a week. Choice of day or evening attendance on a Tuesday.

How long is the course?

One year.

Do I need any previous knowledge or qualifications to join the course?

No, the course can be enjoyed by students at any level.

Will I get a qualification?

No, but you will make some beautiful things.

Please note: You will need to bring or buy your own equipment and materials.